

### **INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner, Ms. Karen Younkins, for the helpful comments offered during the telephone communication extended to Applicants' representative (Enoch Peavey, 57,686) on May 25, 2011, concerning the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In this regard, the amendments to the claims herein are made in view of the Examiner's helpful commentary. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned if the Examiner believes that such communication would be beneficial in expediting prosecution of the present Application.

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter.

Upon entry of the above amendments, the Specification and the claims 1-6, 11, 15, 17 and 20 will have been amended. Claims 1-46 are currently pending, with claims 21-46 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

### *Objection to the Specification*

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification. In this regard, Applicants submit that the Specification has been amended, where appropriate, in order to address the Examiner's concerns. In particular, Applicants submit that the Specification has been amended to clarify that the presently claimed --internal space-- corresponds to the originally claimed "spray space." In this regard, the recitation of the internal space is recited in order to be descriptive of the feature (e.g., 25a, 25b and 25c, in Figure 16) illustrated in the original Disclosure which corresponds to the originally recited "spray space." Therefore, Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by entry of the present Amendment.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objection to the Specification is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Drawings***

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings for not illustrating a “swirl.” However, Applicants submit that arrow Q1 in Figure 17a and 17b, as explained in the paragraph beginning at line 9, in page 6 of the present disclosure, illustrates the flow of the washing within the swirl chamber or (second space).

Nevertheless, upon entry of the present Amendment, Applicants submit that the recitation of a “swirl” will have been removed from the claims solely in order to simplify the claim language. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner’s objection to the Drawings are believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner’s rejection, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 have been amended, where appropriate, solely in order to address the Examiner’s concerns.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether Applicants intend to positively claim “the washing water.” Applicants submit that the washing water is recited functionally to explain an operation of the nozzle device. In this regard, Applicants submit that the claims have been amended to, e.g., recite “configured to introduce the washing water” in order to clarify that Applicants do not intend to positively claim the water.

Further, Applicants submit that the present recitation of an “internal space” replaced the previous recitation of “spray space” in the claims because of the Examiner’s

previously expressed concerns regarding the recited “spray space.” See the Examiner’s comments in paragraph 11, page 4, of the Official Action dated September 7, 2010. Further, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to, e.g., Figure 16(b) of the present disclosure which illustrates features of a non-limiting embodiment of the presently claimed internal space. In this regard, Applicants submit that the internal space may comprise, e.g., a first space 25c, a second 25b, and a third space 25a, as recited in dependent claim 4. Thus, it should be appreciated that the corresponding diameters extend in a direction generally perpendicular to a central longitudinal axis of the first space 25c, the second 25b, and the third space 25a, respectively.

Further, Applicants submit that claims 17 and 20 have been amended to clarify, e.g., as illustrated in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 16(b) that the spray member has a positioner 404c abutting against an inner surface of the front end of the cover member, and that the positioner may include a front end abutment portion provided on a front end of the spray member, as generally recited in claims 17 and 20, respectively.

Furthermore, the recitation of a “swirl” has been deleted from claim 6 in order to simplify the claim language.

Accordingly, in view of the above-amendments, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, is improper and should be withdrawn.

#### ***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GALLO (U.S. Patent No. 3,182,860).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 solely in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application.

In particular, Applicants note that amended claim 1 recites a nozzle device, including: a spray hole for spraying washing water; a pipe forming a first flow path configured to introduce the washing water to the spray hole; and a cover member having the spray hole, the cover member surrounding the pipe, the cover member being integrally formed of a cylindrical metal, the spray hole being provided on a longitudinally extending surface of the cover member, and a front end of the cover member being closed and extending traverse to a longitudinal axis of the cover member so as to prevent the washing water from exiting therethrough, a space between an outer surface of the pipe and an inner peripheral surface of the cover member forming a second flow path configured to introduce the washing water to the spray hole, wherein the second flow path is configured to surround the outer surface of the pipe in a circumferential direction of the cover member.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner apparently asserts that the portion to which reference character 20 in Figure 2 of GALLO points is a closed front end that prevents washing water from exiting through the front end.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is very different structurally from the device in GALLO.

In particular, Applicants submit that portion of the device indicated by reference 20 in GALLO, which the Examiner considers to be equivalent to the presently claimed front end of the cover member, does not (and cannot) prevent the contents of the

dispensing device from exiting through 24, i.e., along the longitudinal axis of the cover member. See Figure 2 in GALLO.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the nozzle 22 in GALLO cannot reasonably be considered a spray hole provided on a longitudinally extending surface of a cover member since the nozzle 22 itself is a hollow cylindrical member having an opening at an end thereof.

Therefore, Applicants submit that GALLO fails to disclose at least the presently claimed spray hole being provided on a longitudinally extending surface of the cover member, and a front end of the cover member being closed and extending traverse to a longitudinal axis of the cover member so as to prevent the washing water from exiting therethrough, as generally recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-20, Applicants assert that these claims are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 21 and 22 since these claims depend indirectly from claim 1, which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

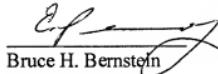
**SUMMARY**

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants submit that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the present response or this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ryouichi KOGA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

May 31, 2011  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Enoch E. Peavey  
Reg. No. 57,688